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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 31645 111914Z

71
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-10 INT-08 SCEM-02 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /180 W
---------- 099165
R 111822Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5380
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLES
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, FR
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF FRENCH PATRONAT ON ENERGY CRISIS

1. AT A LUNCH GIVEN IN HONOR OF THE AMBASSADOR BY FRANCOIS CEYRAC, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH PATRONAT, AMBROISE ROUX, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PATRONAT AND PRESIDENT OF THE COMPAGNIE
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GENERAL D'ELECTRICITE, FRANCE'S LARGEST MANUFACTURER OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, GAVE A BRIEF ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

THE ENERGY CRISIS ON THE FRENCH ECONOMY AS THE PATRONAT SAW IT.

2. ROUX SAID THAT THE ENERGY PROBLEM, SO FAR AS FRANCE WAS CONCERNED, HAD TO BE CONSIDERED AS TWO SEPARATE PROBLEMS. THE FIRST WAS THE SHORT-RUN PROBLEM CREATED BY THE USE OF OIL BY THE ARAB COUNTRIES AS A POLITICAL WEAPON TO ACHIEVE THEIR POLITICAL OBJECTIVES IN THE CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL. THE SECOND WAS THE LONG-RANGE PROBLEM, RESULTING FROM RISING CONSUMPTION AND THE PROBABILITY THAT THE OIL PRODUCERS WOULD NOT ALLOW PRODUCTION TO RISE TO THE LEVELS REQUIRED BY PRESENTLY EXPECTED GROWTH OF CONSUMPTION.

3. PROVIDED THE ELECTIONS IN ISRAEL DID NOT BRING INTO POWER A GROUP OF HAWKS WHO WOULD OPT FOR A PREEMPTIVE ATTACK AND PROVIDED NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA WENT WELL, HE THOUGHT THAT THE SHORT-RUN PROBLEM WOULD BE SOLVED WITHIN A RELATIVELY FEW MONTHS AND THAT THERE WOULD THUS BE NO REALLY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR FRANCE.

4. THE LONG-RUN PROBLEM FACED FRANCE WITH THE NECESSITY OF DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT SOURCES OF ENERGY SO THAT SHE COULD FREE HERSELF FROM DEPENDENCE ON THE ARABS. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WOULD REQUIRE FIFTEEN YEARS OF VERY HARD WORK. HE CALCULATED THAT BY ABOUT 1980 FRANCE WOULD BE FACED BY AN ENERGY SHORT-FALL OF ABOUT 30 PERCENT, A FIGURE WHICH MIGHT BE REDUCED A SMALL AMOUNT IF VERY FAVORABLE SUPPLY AGREEMENTS COULD BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE ARABS. ROUX THOUGHT THAT THE EFFECTS OF THIS LONGER-RANGE CRISIS WOULD NOT BEGIN TO BE FELT TOO RAPIDLY. THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT WOULD BE A SHORT-FALL OF NOT MORE THAN 10 PERCENT, WHICH COULD BE EASILY ABSORBED BY SERIOUS CONSERVATION MEASURES BY THE GOVERNMENT (AND ROUX
ADDED THAT THE PRESENT MEASURES ORDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT WERE NOT SERIOUS). HE THUS THOUGHT*THAT IT WOULD NOT BE
UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF 1975 BEFORE THE EFFECTS OF THE LONG-RANGE ENERGY CRISIS BEGAN TO BE FELT IN A SERIOUS WAY IN FRANCE AND THAT, CONSEQUENTLY, THERE WAS NO REAL DANGER OF SERIOUS SOCIAL UNREST RESULTING FROM THE ENERGY CRISIS BEFORE THEN.

5. CEYRAC AND ROUX EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE UNITED STATES
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AND EUROPE OUGHT TO COORDINATE THEIR RESPONSES TO THE LONG-RANGE ENERGY CRISIS. IN PARTICULAR, THEY BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE SHOULD ACT AS A GROUP IN DEALING WITH THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES. WHEN ASKED IF THEY THOUGHT THE GOF WOULD FAVOR SUCH A CONCERTED APPROACH, THEY REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

DECONTROL DECEMBER 31, 1976.
IRWIN

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